

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system, comprising a first reaction part for denitrating nitrogen oxides by reacting said nitrogen oxide with ammonia, being provided with a first catalyst containing, as active constituents, at least: a complex oxide comprising two or more oxides selected from silica, alumina, titania, zirconia, and tungsten oxide; ~~[[and]]~~ a rare earth metal or a transition metal (except Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Cr, and V); and sulfur or phosphorus; and a second reaction part for oxidatively decomposing ammonia that has leaked from the first reaction part, being provided with a second catalyst containing, as active constituents, at least: a noble metal and a silica-alumina type complex oxide.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the first catalyst contains, as active constituents, at least: a titania-zirconia type complex oxide; a rare earth metal or a transition metal (except Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Cr, and V); and sulfur or phosphorus.

4. (Currently amended) The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the first catalyst contains, as active constituents, at least: a tungsten oxide-zirconia type complex oxide; a rare earth metal or a transition metal (except Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Cr, and V); and sulfur or phosphorus.

5. (Original) The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system of claim 1, wherein the first catalyst contains, as active constituents, at least: a silica-alumina type complex oxide and a rare earth metal.

6. (Original) The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system of claim 1, wherein the first catalyst consists of a silica-alumina type complex oxide and a transition metal (except Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Cr, and V).

7. (Previously presented) The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system of claim 1, wherein a composite containing, as active constituents, at least: an oxide selected from silica, alumina, titania, zirconia, and tungsten oxide; and a rare earth metal or a transition metal (except Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Cr, and V), is supported by the first catalyst.

8. (Previously presented) The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system of claim 1, wherein a composite containing, as active constituents, at least: an oxide selected from silica, alumina, titania, zirconia, and tungsten oxide; and a rare earth metal or a transition metal (except Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Cr, and V), is supported by the second catalyst.

9. (Previously presented) The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system of claim 1, wherein said catalyst is supported by a carrier substrate.

10. (Previously presented) The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst system of claim 1, further comprising, at an upstream side of the first reaction part, a third reaction part for oxidizing a nitrogen compound by reacting the nitrogen compound with oxygen.

11. (Currently amended) A nitrogen oxide removal method comprising denitrating nitrogen oxides reductively by contacting the nitrogen oxides with a first catalyst in the presence of ammonia, the first catalyst containing, as active constituents, at least: a complex oxide comprising two or more oxides selected from silica, alumina, titania, zirconia, and tungsten oxide; and a rare earth metal or transition metal (except Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Cr, and V); and sulfur or phosphorus; and

decomposing unreacted ammonia oxidatively by contacting the untreated ammonia with a second catalyst, the second catalyst containing, as active constituents, at least, a noble metal and a silica-alumina type complex oxide.